

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for offering for purchase earth imagery content of a user-selected desired geospatial area, the earth imagery content being delivered in the form of a photo product, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving earth imagery metadata from a plurality of earth imagery content providers;
 - (b) overlaying the earth imagery metadata on a mapping application;
 - (c) a user interacting over a channel with the mapping application, the user locating a geographical area via the mapping application and selecting via an on-line, interactive man-machine interface a desired geospatial area represented by one or more user defined polygons;
 - (d) converting the user-selected geospatial area represented by one or more polygons to a data string ;
 - (e) transmitting the data string over a channel to a fulfillment provider, and
 - (f) the fulfillment provider generating a photo product of the desired geospatial area in a format selected by the user.
2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the data string includes a name specified by the user.
3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the data string further includes an earth imagery content provider code.
4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
one or more polygons are identified by polygon points in the form of longitude and latitude coordinates.
5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
one or more polygons is communicated by digital file containing user's desired area.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the channel is the internet.
7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the channel is a local server with direct remote access capability.
8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the data string further includes a year in which the earth imagery content provider acquired the earth imagery content.
9. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein:
the data string further includes a year in which the earth imagery content provider acquired the earth imagery content.
10. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein:
the data string further includes geospatial position of earth imagery content.
11. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein:
the data string further includes a year in which the earth imagery content provider acquired the earth imagery content.
12. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining if the user selected earth imagery content is available through the on-line, interactive man-machine interface;
 - (b) requesting a bid from at least one earth imagery content provider to obtain the user selected earth imagery content; and
 - (c) communicating the bid to the user.
13. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the photo product is at least one digital image.

14. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the photo product is at least one printed image.

15. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
delivering the photo product to the user in the format selected by the user.

16. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein:
at least one digital image is delivered to the user on a computer readable
storage medium.

17. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
offering the user a choice of photo products.

18. A method as recited in claim 17 wherin:
the choice of products presented to user varies with the desired geospatial
area selected.

19. A method as recited in claim 17 wherein:
the choice of photo products presented to the user varies with the
geospatial area and/or format selected.

20. A method as recited in claim 17 wherein:
a price and a delivery time of the photo product and a location of the
fulfillment provider are dependent on the the desired geospatial area and format
selected.

21. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
allowing the user to share a view of the desired geospatial area for earth
imagery content selected with another party over the channel.

22. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

allowing the user to select stereo and mono coverage.

23. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
allowing the user to purchase planned imagery.
24. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the on-line, interactive man-machine interface enables viewing of
referenced selection and metadata throughout decision process.
25. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
capturing unique ID's relating to the desired geospatial area selected by the
user from a back-end system access.
26. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the user selects from earth imagery content available differentiated by
year, color vs B&W, resolution, scale or precision processed form.
27. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
delivering the photo product to the user.
28. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the channel is an intranet site located on a local server with periodic
updates.
29. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
offering to allow payment for the product via the channel.
30. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:
generating the photo product of the desired geospatial area for earth
imagery content using the fulfillment data string combined with the fulfillment
metadata of the earth imagery content selected.

31. A method as recited in claim 27 further comprising the step of:
the delivering step is performed by mail, e-mail or digital file, FTP of
digital file, on-line view, on-line download, or on-line use of digital file within
desktop applications.

32. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the user defines the format of the photo product with respect to a level of
processing, a geographical projection, a software reading format, and a delivery
means.

33. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the photo product is defined by a geographical projection selected.

34. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the photo product is defined by a software reading format selected.

35. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the photo product is defined by a delivery means selected.

36. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the data string is transmitted as an http request, sent by FTP.

37. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the data string automatically populates a database via an html form
interface.

38. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:
the content providers control quality and accuracy of the display of earth
imagery content over the channel through on-line upload and verification of the
earth imagery content.

39. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the desired geospatial area represented by one or more user defined polygons is substantially infinitely variable as to a location, a size and a shape thereof.

40. A computer storage medium having instructions stored thereon for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

41. A computer program product comprising:
a computer readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon for performing the method steps of claim 1.

42. A method for offering for purchase user-selected earth imagery content of a desired geospatial area in the form of a photo product comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving earth imagery metadata from a plurality of earth imagery content providers;
- (b) overlaying the earth imagery metadata on a mapping application, the earth imagery metadata provided by a service provider;
- (c) a user communicating over a channel with the service provider, the user locating a geographical area via the mapping application and dynamically selecting via an on-line, interactive man-machine interface a desired geospatial area represented by one or more user defined polygons;
- (d) converting the user-selected geospatial area represented by one or more polygons to a data string ;
- (e) transmitting the data string over a channel to a fulfillment provider;
and
- (f) the fulfillment provider generating a photo product of the desired geospatial area in a format selected by the user.